



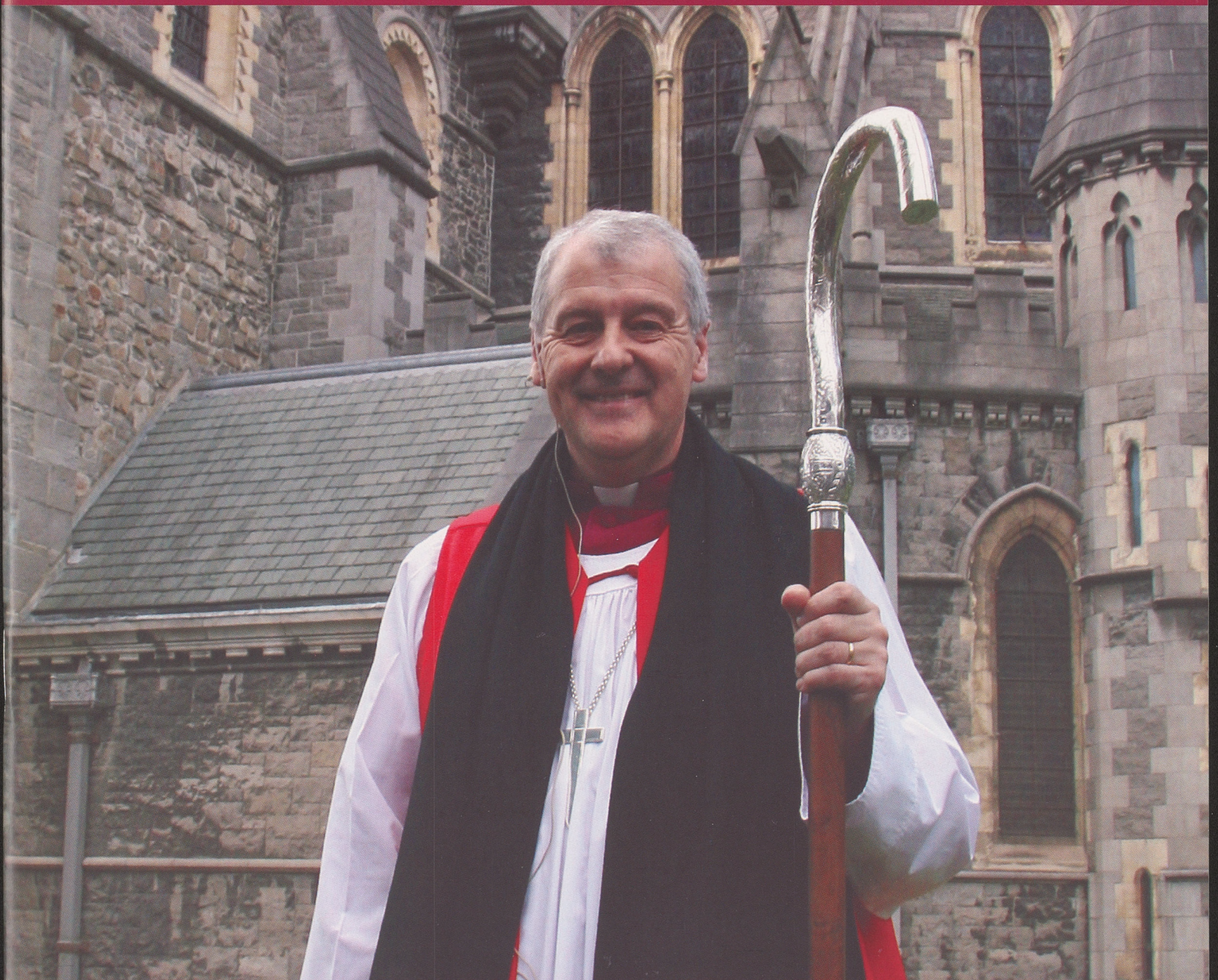
Friends' News

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

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FRONT COVER: *The Most Revd Michael Jackson – Archbishop of Dublin*

BACK COVER: *The SNEYD monument-refurbished by Jason Ellis and funded by the Friends*

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From your Editor

LESLEY RUE

Welcome to our Spring/Summer edition of the Friends News. We welcome our new Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, who was enthroned on Sunday 8 May in the Cathedral.

In this edition you can read of the enthronement of the Archbishop, the members of the Cathedral's new Board, the Friends European tour in 2012 and plenty of other interesting articles.

Also included in this issue are the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, the minutes of last year's meeting and the annual accounts. On Trinity Sunday 19 June 2011 we have Cathedral Eucharist, Salmon & Strawberry lunch, AGM and Evensong at 3.30pm. Full details inside this issue.

I would like to thank all those who wrote an article/s for this edition and Orla Ryan, Diocesan Press Officer, for the article and photos of the new Archbishop.

Lesley

PLEASE NOTE

The Friends now have a **NEW PHONE NUMBER 087 790 6062**. You can text or leave a voice mail at any time and Lesley will contact you.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY 19 June 2011

Sung Eucharist at 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Revd David McDonnell

Salmon & Strawberry Lunch in the crypt at 12.45 p.m.

Annual General Meeting in the Chapter Room at 2.15 p.m.

Choral Evensong at 3.30 p.m.

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Dean's Welcome The Very Revd Dermot Dunne



Welcome to this edition of the *Friends' News* which has been carefully put together for your enjoyment. In this edition you will find some great articles on different aspects of cathedral life and some material in preparation for the Friends' annual general meeting which will be held on Trinity Sunday, 19 June. I look forward to greeting you all either at

the morning service or at the lunch which promises to be as good this year as it is every year.

I have to say that the highlight of my twenty eight years of ordination has to be the Palm Sunday Eucharist on the 17 April this year. What made this particular worship event so memorable was not the music which was as good as ever, neither was it the sermon because there was none preached that day due to the dramatic reading of the gospel passion. What made that day so memorable for me was the last five minutes of the service when I was at the West end greeting the congregation as they left. While shaking hands with everyone, as is my custom, a young man of about fifteen or sixteen years shook my hands and said to me 'Wow, that was cool.' Never in my twenty eight years has any teenager said anything remotely similar of a service in which I have been involved. For me the reaction of that teenager speaks volumes about our ministry in the cathedral which transcends all boundaries of tradition and even faith. Isn't it wonderful that on another recent occasion four twenty-somethings from Brazil on a visit to Ireland could say of their experience of worship at the cathedral that it was the first time that they had felt comfortable in a church in their whole young lives? So what is it about how we worship in the cathedral that prompts such positive responses from such unlikely quarters?

We are privileged in the cathedral to have a wonderful music tradition that has been in existence since the very foundation of the first cathedral community nearly one thousand years ago. Our present choir is excellent under the talented conductorship of Ms Judith Gannon. As with every cathedral the pursuit of excellence is engaged in all areas of its life and ministry and music and liturgy is no exception. The primary aim of music and liturgy is that they should be woven together in an effortless dance to create a space where people can be connected to their inner search for the divine which we call God and where that search is not interrupted by attempts to direct where that search should go. Let me explain this further. At any given time as well as a regular congregation in the cathedral there would also be up to

seventy visitors who would be from many faiths and none. Of the many who regularly attend there would be a number who wish to remain anonymous and who would declare that they are on a spiritual journey that hasn't been defined or bounded by denomination. For me the liturgy creates a space where these people can be without any agenda being forced.

What is assumed is that the liturgy and music have always danced to the same tune where the overall effect is one of sacred worship. This has not always been so because there is a delicate balance between the place of music in the liturgy and the richness of the liturgy itself. If the liturgy is celebrated in a shoddy way then the music will be seen as a performance and the worship is demeaned. A dear predecessor of mine often quoted 'Music is the bicycle on which liturgy rides.' In other words the richness of the music needs to be balanced by the richness of the liturgy.

One would have to argue that the liturgy of the cathedral, while somewhat reflecting that which is celebrated in the parish church should not be levelled to a parochial standard. The liturgy of the cathedral should be the shop window of the excellence of liturgy that the diocese can offer. The aim of Cathedral liturgy shouldn't be to make us comfortable but to challenge us to pursue excellence and to experiment with different ways of worshipping. Cathedral liturgy, because of the context of the building should be majestic in nature, embracing all the senses through sound, colour, smell, touch and taste to reflect the beautiful and uncontainable transcendence that is God.

I didn't grow up with any sense of churchmanship in my life. Arguments about how high or low one is on the liturgical candle seem irrelevant to me connoting an approach to liturgy and the ministry of the church which is somewhat vacuous and self serving and which ignores the evangelistic tool that liturgy is. For me every liturgy I celebrate is unique and provides me with an opportunity to be creative. I have no agenda about trying to establish any particular tradition within the cathedral. My passion is for making space for people to connect to God. Everything I do in creating the liturgy is done with the intention of allowing each person to be touched by the divine. It is so heartening and brings so much joy to my heart when young people are so vocal about their experiences in the cathedral. Every Sunday I relish the privilege that God gives me to minister to so many people in this way and I pray that I will be able to continue to engage in that ministry in such a creative way.

I am always left with the question why we in the Church of Ireland continue to define ourselves by what we are not, rather than by who we are.

As ever

Dermot

Sermon preached by the Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, the Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson

Readings: Haggai 1:13-2:9, St John 2:13-22

Haggai 1:4: But now, Zerubbabel, take heart, says the Lord; take heart, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, high priest; take heart, all you people, says the Lord. Begin the work, for I am with you, says the Lord of Hosts, and my spirit remains among you. Do not be afraid.

Flexibility is the companion of tradition, although it does not often come across like that. We must, of course, show appropriate respect for the good things which become ours through inheritance. Yet we cannot simply maintain those things as if their very maintenance is an end in itself and, therefore, constitutes a job well done. In each generation, it is our responsibility to bring the tradition forward to a new place, to make of it a fresh expression of God's presence and God's power, living and working with quite different people and in quite new situations. In this way, the tradition develops the confidence to act in ways appropriate to changed and changing circumstances. This it must do with sure confidence if it is to be a tradition for our time.

In an era of insecurity and instability, of economic challenge and societal anger, this is perhaps not what we want to hear. We might well be looking for a bit of a break from the tradition, feeling ourselves to be somewhat battered by what we see as the inheritance of bad decisions and even worse outcomes. But *standing still* in the face of new life in Christ – God's gift to us at Easter – is not an option for us as children of the new dawn, when the light of Christ is shedding its glow on the world. To go further, Biblical prophecy compels us to

think otherwise and to discover how the tradition of speaking hopefully into places of fear can transform failure into fruitfulness, rejection into recognition. Because of the exuberant diversity of our religious and theological traditions, because of our urgent need to engage as one in the needs of our common world, it is our duty to use creatively everything which we have inherited. It is our task to discern for ourselves and disclose to others the many ways in which that inheritance has both life and energy today.

Haggai's prophecies focus on the year 520 BC. Sixty-six years have passed since the fall of Jerusalem and the deportation of its people to Babylon. This followed swiftly on the demolition of the Temple in 586 BC. In spite of the central place of the Temple in Jewish self-understanding, the shock and scandal are that the people have rebuilt their own houses while the Temple still lies in ruins. Haggai enters a situation well known to all of us – one of widespread despair where every decision only seems to underwrite the pointlessness of trying to make decisions at all. Suddenly there is a new governor and there is a new high priest to restore the ruined Temple and its worship – and there is hope. It is a story of a succession of fresh starts, the voice of the prophet often speaking beyond where the people are and yet persevering in speaking out, not letting a negative reaction make him cynical and disengaged. Constantly and relentlessly, the encouragement which God offers them is this: they are to set fear to one side. In the middle of despair, they are to look for the presence of the God who has not and will not abandon them.



The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, with the President of Ireland Mary McAleese and her husband Dr Martin McAleese.



The new Archbishop meeting members of the congregation after his enthronement.

St John's Gospel shows us something else, that tradition does not and cannot perpetuate itself on its own terms. It must be subjected to changing circumstances and give an account of itself for the greater good. In the NT Reading, Jesus cleanses the Temple, this Second Temple the building of which the prophet Haggai had made possible. In what I see as a very contemporary idiom, Jesus reasserts the priorities of the Temple over against the triumphant combination of economic self-interest and ritual glass ceilings – You must buy your sacrificial offerings here and only here and from us and only us. Every nation is tempted to economic self-interest. Every religious tradition is tempted to ritual exclusion of others. We are held in a very modern dilemma within a very ancient and symbolic picture of divine righteousness. The world of institutions has come under and remains under tremendous strain and fracture. It is vital that everyone take the authority that is hers or his as a human person and exercise it. Kicking over the tradition indiscriminately and uncritically, however, is far from helpful – to yourself or indeed to anyone else. It leads to repetitive immaturity. In the time of Haggai, the Temple lay in ruins and the people themselves did not have the energy or the morale to build it up. In the time of Jesus, the Temple prospered and yet the cult itself was being used to exploit the very people whom the Temple was designed to serve in approaching God in their day. Power and authority are so often at variance and at loggerheads, in every tradition.

Priorities keep changing. Yet the public role of religions remains one of opening up pathways to God for those who find it difficult to make such a journey for themselves; of opening up dialogue with those who make decisions which affect all segments of society; and, most of all, of

opening up and maintaining relationships with people, whoever they and we are. This holds for every Faith represented here this afternoon. It is the role of people of faith to think and to act in hope. The invitation which I have received to be the Church of Ireland archbishop of Dublin places me along with all of you at the heartbeat of one of Europe's most fast-moving capital cities.

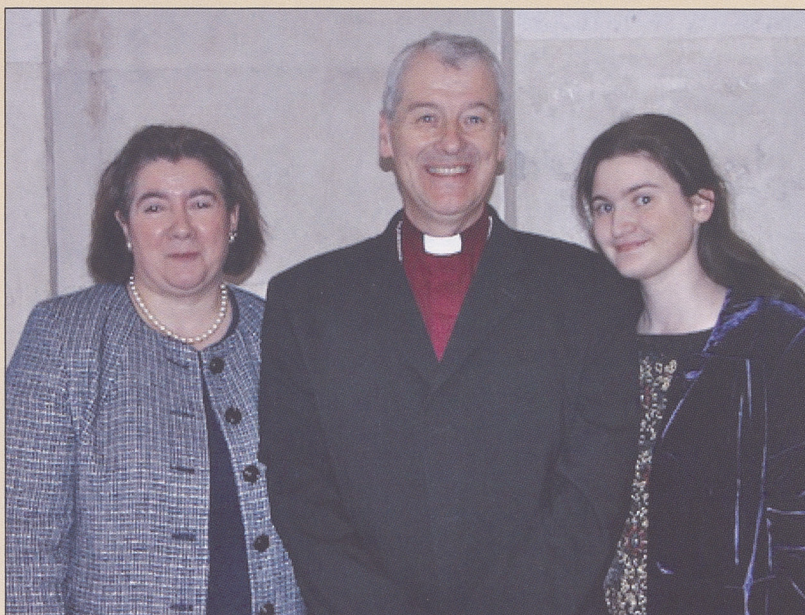
Within little more than a decade it is reckoned that over half of the world's population will live in an urban environment. Cities bring an almost limitless choice for those who can make choices. And choice always brings the demand for responsibility –whether it be in finance, politics, education or healthcare. However, cities, as well we know, also tend to confine choice-making in the hands of fewer and fewer people. So, advocacy of those who have no voice is an important job of



The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, and the Most Revd Diarmuid Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, who read the Gospel at the service.

work for people of Faith in an urban environment. A sense of personal alienation and loneliness is another widespread feature of urban life. The sheer magnitude and pace of the everyday, the cluster of agendas which together make up a decision, along with the scope for corruption and bad faith, pushes to one side people who find themselves devoid of voice or influence. Here again, people of Faith have a strategic role to play, one of challenge and consistency combined, both within their own traditions and across the traditions of all together. It is surely a moment of hope that the Ministry of Healing is one of the works of God which is being developed actively in this cathedral church. This will redefine its community, as the doors of this place open wider and wider through such witness of generosity in the name and the work of Christ.

Within Christianity, a divided witness makes less and less sense to a world where so much can be and is being done together. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year, the bishop of Meath and Kildare, Richard Clarke, posed a question to the Christian traditions in Ireland: Can we please do together three core Christian activities: baptism, the reading of the Scriptures and pastoral care? I am not suggesting that this invitation has gone unheeded. I simply give it fresh voice and underpin its good sense as a common starting-point. What unites is much more important than what divides. We embrace the richness in diversity which is already ours. We make the commitment to live it together for one another. I rejoice at the participation here today of so many members of the Christian tradition with whom we share priorities, practices, worship and witness – and difference. My hope is that togetherness will be our urgent aspiration as God moves us forward. The wonderful thing about recognizing tradition as shared is that it takes us along pathways which we might never have seen before. We who are members of the Church of Ireland are honoured by the presence here of those of Faiths other than Christianity. Dialogue is one of those words which we can tend to take for granted and which we all too often hear without really listening. Dialogue, however, is essential to good relationships and to appropriate actions. It is not a self-consciously clever way of doing things. The dialogue of life affects us all. It is every bit as real and important as the dialogue of ideas. Pioneering work has been done already in Dublin, and over generations, in the building up of trust and respect in circumstances of openness and generosity ahead of difficulties. And when these difficulties become tangible and dangerous, the underlying respect that has been built up seriously comes into play. The Dublin Faith Forum points an exciting way forward. Again, piece by piece, across the Church of Ireland we are seeking to set up networks of relationships across the World Faiths. Confidence in our own identity is the bedrock of dialogue. This offers a strong and a good challenge for us to explore and articulate to others with confidence who we are. Generosity of spirit and graciousness of engagement underwrite the need for each of us to know and embrace our identity and to keep open the free flow of common action.



The Archbishop with his wife Inez and his daughter Camilla

For Christian people the transformative power of the person of Jesus Christ is something which we celebrate particularly in the Season of Easter. New life beyond the grave is the grace of God given us at this time. It gives us an identity which places us within a community. It gives us an urgency to engage with people who are our neighbours and whose difference from us we and they celebrate. This cathedral church has an important role to play in this city as a place of welcome, a place of dialogue and a place of experimentation. The monastic tradition is sadly lost to the Church of Ireland but the spirit of welcoming the stranger lives on in cathedrals and in all that they do. The need for dialogue of life as well as dialogue of ideas is urgent in an Ireland where economic downturn and active cynicism about the integrity of any institution is already maximizing disengagement on the part of people whose contribution we urgently need – particularly young people who are the stakeholders of the future. Experimentation is vital to the present and future life of the church and to its response to the life beyond its own doors which is what really matters. We need to be eager for change. We need to embrace the new voices which come from the tradition as it is lived with compassion and integrity today.

Right across these United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, from Arklow to the south to Skerries to the north and to Athy and Donoughmore to the west, there are people committed to a type of church life which is confident and outward-looking. I look forward to meeting all of you and to sharing in the life and work which are ours together. You are all part of bigger and wider communities and I look forward to meeting the members of these communities also. I look forward with my family to making Dublin our home and to meeting new people and making new friends. I wish to thank the people of Clogher Diocese for the ways in which they welcomed and embraced us over the past nine years and to thank them for coming today to Christ Church in such numbers. Finally, I wish to thank you all for your presence today and to offer you my friendship in the years to come.

St John 2:21: But the temple Jesus was speaking of was his body.

Spirituality Matters!

THE REVD GARTH BUNTING

Many of you I will not have met, but you have read of my appointment to the cathedral in a previous edition of "Friends' News".

One of the main thrusts of my ministry in Christ Church will be in the area of spirituality. I have a passion for helping people develop their individual spiritual lives and am hoping, over time, to develop a programme that will help people to discover the rich heritage of spiritual teaching and practices that can help us today to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

It is generally accepted today that, while traditional church attendance is declining, people nevertheless remain spiritual at heart. That is why I am so glad that the Dean, Chapter and Board of the cathedral are giving me this opportunity in ministry.

A spirituality programme (or part of it) can create space for people who are searching and asking questions about life to explore those questions and journey on towards finding meaning and purpose. I hope and pray that my ministry will

be an opportunity for outreach from the cathedral to enable people to do just that.

For those of us with a particularly Christian spiritual outlook, it is hard to hear the guidance of the Holy Spirit when we do not take time to be quiet before God. Creating a holy space for this to happen allows us to become more aware of God's guidance. Henri Nouwen, in *Here and Now*, talks about prayer and contemplation and how they are necessary if the walls of our inner room (his way of describing our spiritual lives) are not to remain bare.

There are so many practices that we can learn about to aid us in listening for God: reflective reading, journaling, spiritual reading, reflection on Scripture, even drawing, painting or dancing! The trick is to learn about them and when we find one that suits, to use it regularly as a means of keeping in touch with the Spirit.

Maybe in future articles, I will be able to encourage you as a Friend of the cathedral, to consider more about your own spiritual life and the direction God may take you through it.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Dublin Y.M.C.A. Male Voice Choir
Celebrating 80th Anniversary 1931-2011
in Christ Church Cathedral – Dublin
Saturday October 1st 2011**

Founded in Dublin 1931 – 80 years ago - DUBLIN YMCA MALE CHOIR is the oldest Gospel Male Choir in Ireland - many others formed in the 1940's and onwards. During these 80 years the Dublin YMCA Choir have travelled in excess of 370,000 car miles within the these Isles singing the messages of Gospel Song throughout Ireland – North, South, East and West – also in many parts of Scotland, Wales and England. In the 40's it affiliated with The Festivals of Male Voice Praise (FMVP) and held the first Dublin Festival of Gospel Song in November 1946 - these Festivals of Gospel Song and Praise have consistently been popular.

This Festival will be made up of individual choirs coming together from Banbridge, Ballymena, Belfast, Lurgan, Londonderry, Newtownards and Dublin (around 90 voices all together). Over the years Churches, Cathedrals and National Concert Halls have been used to hold these larger events.

Admission will be free – Tickets will be available - applying by email – details will be duly advertised.

A Collection will be taken for Dublin YMCA and for 'Creche/Youth'work – in the inner city

IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THIS CELEBRATORY FESTIVAL OF 80 YEARS ACTIVITY IS BEING HELD IN CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL WHICH IS BOTH AN HISTORIC AND IMPORTANT PART OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN.



Memorial Service for earthquake victims

CANON PATRICK COMERFORD

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr John Key, expressed his sympathies to the families of two Irish men killed in the earthquake Christchurch at a special service of Choral Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Relatives of Mr Owen McKenna, from Co Monaghan, and Mr John Joseph O'Connor, originally from Co Kerry, attended the memorial service on 20 March along with New Zealand's Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Derek Leask, and members of the diplomatic corps.

In his message, read by Ambassador Leask, Mr Key extended his "deep personal sympathies and condolences to the Irish families that lost loved ones in Christchurch."

He said: "My thoughts are with you at this difficult time. This was not just a tragedy for Christchurch or for New Zealand. It was an international tragedy that has impacted on the lives of many around the world, including here in Ireland."

Mr McKenna had been buried the previous Wednesday in his native Truagh, after he was crushed to death in his car during the earthquake in February. His mother, Mrs Theresa McKenna, attended Choral Evensong, along with his brothers and sisters. A framed photograph of Mr McKenna rested at the foot of the rood screen, and the flag of New Zealand was also present.

Mr O'Connor, an accountant from Abbeydorney, was working in the Pyne Gould building when the quake struck on 22 February, and was buried in Christchurch, New Zealand. His cousin Alma and his sister-in-law Margaret were in the congregation in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

The service, which was organised with the assistance of the New Zealand Ireland Association, was led by the Dean of Christ Church, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, and the intercessions were led by the Revd Garth Bunting.

In her address, Dr Margaret Daly-Denton also read a message from the Dean of Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand, the Very Revd Peter Beck.

The collection in aid of Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand, was taken up in paper bags, recalling the first post-quake collection there.

President Mary McAleese and the Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, were represented by their aides-de-camp. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Gerry Breen, was also present, as well as senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Among the members of the diplomatic corps present were the Ambassadors of Japan, China and Australia, and diplomats from the British, Canadian and US embassies, representing countries that also lost citizens in the disaster.



The Ambassador of New Zealand, Mr Derek Leask, and Dr Margaret Daly-Denton, (Photograph: Patrick Comerford)

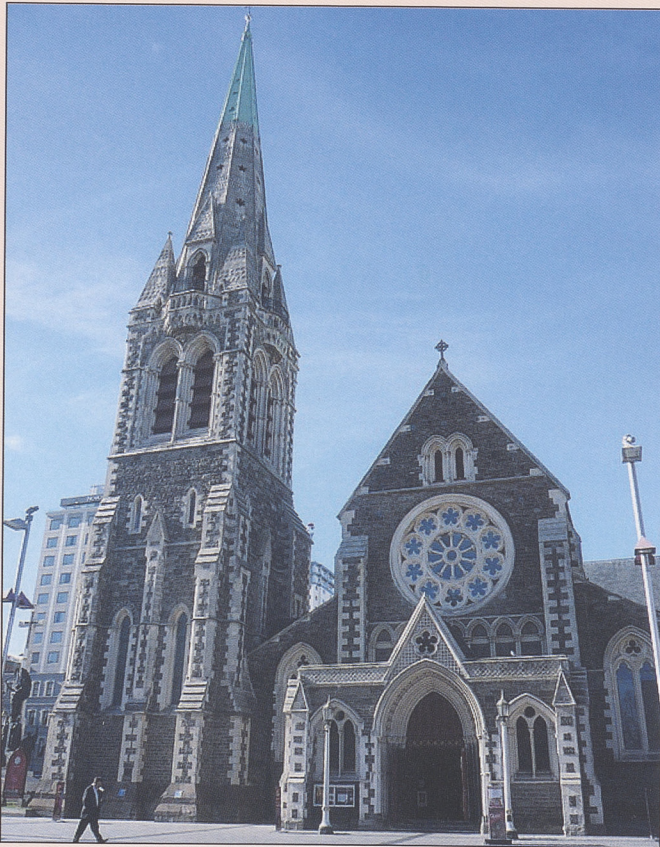
The Revd Roy Byrne was chaplain to the President's aide-de-camp, the Revd David Gillespie was chaplain to the Lord Mayor, and Canon Patrick Comerford was chaplain to the Ambassador of Japan, Mr Toshinao Urabe.

The service was followed by a reception in the crypt, and many of those present also signed a book of condolences.

Excerpts from the Address given by Dr Margaret Daly-Denton

There is a particular poignancy about our gathering today in another Christ Church Cathedral "around the curve of the world." The city of Christchurch takes its name from the iconic cathedral in "Cathedral Square" at the midpoint of what is known as "The Cathedral City." After the September 4th 2010 earthquake, the Cathedral, still standing strong and resolute, became a symbol of resilience in the heart of Canterbury. Now the image of its collapsed spire conveys more powerfully than any words could the extent to which the recent earthquake has struck at the very heart of the city.

Our thoughts are with the people of more than twenty countries that had citizens in Christchurch when the earthquake struck. We are grateful for the opportunity to extend our sympathy to their bereaved families through their diplomatic representatives to Ireland present with us today. Sadly Ireland is numbered among these countries and we offer our sympathy to the families and friends of Owen McKenna and John Joseph ["J.J."] O'Connor, through the members of their families present here today. At this memorial service we make our own the words that Prime Minister John Key addressed to the bereaved in all these countries. "We embrace [your loved ones] as part of the wider New Zealand community. Your family members have become part of the story of [Christchurch] and of New Zealand and we will remember your loved ones as we remember our own."



Christchurch before the earthquake.

New Zealand's Christchurch Cathedral was designed as the centerpiece of the planned Anglican settlement of the province of Canterbury that began when four ships sailed from England in 1850. Although certainly a much younger sister of Dublin's Christ Church cathedral, it is one of New Zealand's historic buildings, a fresh expression of the European cathedral tradition in local stone and native New Zealand timbers decorated inside with Maori and Polynesian art and craft work. It has been wonderful to see in the news coverage of the earthquake's aftermath the extent to which the Cathedral has become a focal point for the city's recovery. To the many people insisting that it must be rebuilt stone by stone, its Dean, Peter Beck replied, "I understand all the sentiments around the Cathedral . . . but in the end, it is a building. Our focus must surely at this time be upon people. I urge you all to look after yourselves and look after others. It is



Christchurch after the earthquake.

important that we draw together, gain and give strength and support." In fact, photos of Dean Peter Beck and Bishop Victoria Matthews feature in a government-sponsored poster campaign supporting those affected by the earthquake. Under the heading, "Look after yourself; look after others," the poster encourages anyone feeling overwhelmed to ask for help, to talk to someone in their family, a good friend or someone in their church, and not to struggle on their own. . . In all the coverage of the aftermath of the earthquake, the one constant has been selfless kindness. As the New Zealand Prime Minister put it, at the National Memorial Service, this earthquake has shown "the unbreakable strength of the ties that bind people together," as citizens of Christchurch, as a nation of New Zealanders and as members of the wider world community.

Was this earthquake an "act of God"? "Rubbish!" says Cathedral theologian the Revd Lynda Patterson. The real "act of God" [is] what people do in the face of need." If this is so, then God has been and continues to be right there in the rubble of the city of Christchurch: in those who dug people out of collapsed buildings and ferried the injured to hospital in their cars; in the two young people who began by cooking 200 sausages on one BBQ, and within a week had become 40 volunteers cooking over 10,000; in the families who opened their homes to those with nowhere to go; in the households in the unscathed suburbs whose sections are now strewn with caravans and tents; in the 800 strong "farmy army" rolling in with their tractors, wheelbarrows and shovels; in the North Islanders offering free holidays to weary Christchurch families; in seven year old Georgia, setting up her cake sale to raise funds for the shattered cathedral, in the local residents topping up her supply of cakes and in the many buyers who did not want their change back; in North Islander Linda who spent her rostered days off driving down to Christchurch with 1000 litres of fresh water; and in her neighbours who filled her truck with groceries; in the men who dug long drops for their neighbours; in the overseas governments who sent rescue teams.

At the Cathedral regulars' first post-quake Sunday service, held outdoors, Dean Peter Beck, apologised for improvised paper offertory bags, explaining, "They can't carry too much weight!" As a mark of our solidarity with that resilient kiwi spirit, we are using paper bags for our collection here today, our way of being part of the story of the rebuilding of Christchurch. Yesterday the following message came from the Revd Lynda Patterson. "Send our love and gratitude from the other Christchurch Cathedral. It means an enormous amount to know about your thoughts and prayers and also to know that the joke about the fragile collection bags has crossed a few thousand kilometers."

An old Irish saying has it that those who have died are no further from us than God is and God is very near. May that be the experience of all who lost loved ones in the Christchurch earthquake. May they know that nearness of God in the support of friends, even friends that they have never met, living 12,000 miles away.

The collection taken on the day came to €1,600 which will be sent to Christchurch, also the Friends are sending €1,000 to the Friends of Christchurch New Zealand.

Why cathedrals?

KENNETH MILNE

What brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Christ Church every year?

Many of them, of course, come to worship, either privately or at one of the public services. Others are attending concerts or recitals, of which there are so many. But that hardly accounts for the huge numbers who come through the gates, especially in the summer months, and who are drawn into the cathedral by its antiquity and the beauty of the building. Indeed a recently published *AA City Guide to Dublin* suggests that Christ Church is the Normans' outstanding contribution to Irish architecture. Yet cathedrals are unique among what are commonly called 'tourist attractions'. They have, it is true, many of the features that encourage people to flock to historic castles and stately homes, but the difference is that cathedrals invite the visitor to be 'at home', and to share in their life.

It was not always so. In the distant past, Christ Church was the house of a religious community, the Augustinian canons, and while undoubtedly the canons welcomed other worshippers, especially those pilgrims who came to venerate the sacred relics that were such a major source of the community's income, it was without any question *their* cathedral. Even after the Reformation, when Christ Church



Dr Nicola Gordon Bowe, Dr Kenneth Milne, Aran singer Deirdre Ní Chinnéide, the late Dean Desmond Harman and Aonghus Dwane, Summer School Director, at the launch of the Celtic Revival Summer School (Dublin and the Aran Islands), June 2006

had reverted to being what is called (rather misleadingly) a 'secular' foundation, with dean and chapter replacing the 'religious' community, it was still a rather exclusive society, though congregations and visitors were welcome. Indeed, from the time when the cathedral was re-opened in 1868 following Street's restoration, paying visitors have been a valuable source of income. In 1868 sixpenny admission tickets were on sale in the south-west porch. So we find that since its inception Christ Church has sought to secure its financial future through the levying of charges of one kind or another on those who wished to benefit from its amenities.



Audience viewing slides at the lecture series "Art and Music in the life of the Christian Church", held in the cathedral in March 2005.

Mid-nineteenth century, Christ Church began to assume its present role in the disestablished Church of Ireland as the sole diocesan cathedral for Dublin and Glendalough, having previously shared that privilege with St Patrick's since time immemorial. Now the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 'commonly called' Christ Church was, so to speak, on its own, and responsible for its own funding. The assuming of this heavy responsibility coincided with a time when Anglican cathedrals across the water were beginning to re-think their role in the community. Not only their role in the Church, but also their place in the wider society, and their potential to exercise a ministry that was distinctive from that of the parish church.



The Cathedral chairs which the Friends funded and individuals sponsored.

At the time of Disestablishment, when the Church of Ireland underwent drastic administrative change, there was some questioning of the very need for cathedrals. After all, what did they do that could not as easily be done in the myriad of parish churches in central Dublin? And the Church of Ireland had two cathedrals in Dublin! However, they survived, and are now seen to have a very special part to play in the life of Church and city. This is because cathedrals such as ours aim to provide the diocese and the wider community with centres of excellence in liturgy and music, greatly enhanced by the architectural splendour in which these take place. We should not be hesitant to admit that there is an aesthetic dimension to this experience, for the aesthetic can evoke responses of mind and spirit not only from those who come to worship, but also from the casual visitor who may well have come initially as a sight-seer.

Nor is it through the visual and aural arts alone that a cathedral seeks to engage with the spiritual need that lies within every human being, but also through its educational activities. Great numbers of schoolchildren visit us, and while for some of them this is simply an extension of their History curriculum, it can, where appropriate, also be an occasion for contributing to their religious education in ways that the classroom is not equipped to do. We have a lot to learn from some of the imaginative programmes whereby many English cathedrals see themselves as instruments of education. Educational outreach is by no means limited to the young. We have organised thirty or so series of lunch-time lectures, which have brought to Christ Church many people (most of them Dubliners) who might otherwise never have darkened our doors. A series of evening lectures- music and art in the service of the Church – drew very gratifying audiences, as did another evening series on biblical and theological subjects. A most ambitious event took place in 2006. A summer school organised by Aonghus Dwane, a member of the cathedral Cultural Committee, in association with the Árás Éanna arts centre on Inis Óirr, studied the Celtic revival at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with special reference to Church of Ireland involvement, and consisted of several

days of liturgy and lectures at Christ Church, following which the participants were flown for further events on the Aran Islands. Cathedrals can attract the public to lectures and other educational events who would hesitate to enter a more academic venue, and, of course, the liturgy itself, properly devised, can be hugely educational. Looking to the future, in this the quatercentenary year of the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible, we shall (with the financial support of the Friends) be mounting an exhibition in the Treasury to mark an event that was of such major significance, not only for the Church, but for the development of the English language.

The cathedral's contribution to the musical life of the church (and the city) is very considerable, and merits a separate article. Likewise, no one can deny the cultural significance of the work of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (the Irish Guild of the Church) whose home has been with us for very many years, and about which the Cumann's new Development Officer, Caroline Nolan, writes elsewhere in this issue. The funding by the Friends of the new chairs in the nave, which, incorporate in their design the 'foxy friars' was itself a significant cultural contribution. We have as our basic resource what can with some justice claim to be the most interesting building in Dublin, still serving the purpose for which it was founded almost one thousand years ago, yet conscious that its past history and present ministry provide unique opportunities for service to the contemporary diocese and the city.



Dr. Valerie Jones and Daithi O'Maolchoille at the opening of the Amhra Colmcille Exhibition in 2007.

A recent symposium on tourism in Ireland made it clear that there is an increasing proportion of 'cultural tourists' coming to our shores, seeking not just buildings to be looked at but also sensations to be experienced. We are well-placed to meet their needs on both counts.

Easter at Christ Church Cathedral

ERIC FINCH

The sequence of services between Maundy Thursday and Easter Day at our cathedral always provides an extraordinarily rewarding spiritual experience. The five choral services, stretching over 72 hours, are all distinctly different in character from one another – and, of course, from those at the Church's other great festival season of Christmas. They begin with the commemoration on Thursday of our Lord's Last Supper, including the ceremony of foot-washing and the desolation of the stripping of the high altar furnishings, and they end with the celebration with due solemnity of the Easter Day Evensong. Through this sequence we can see vividly how the resurrection of our Lord is, in the words of Archbishop Michael Jackson in this year's Easter Day sermon, a transformation from death to glory.

On Good Friday we listened to the reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus according to St Mark, witnessed the Proclamation of the Cross as the heavy wooden cross was borne from west to east through the cathedral, and heard the singing of the last chorus of Bach's St John Passion.



Good Friday (Altar and Cross)

On Holy Saturday Eve we gathered in the crypt, where we kept a vigil of Old Testament readings, nowadays reduced to just two in number from the twelve originally heard by our forebears, who must have had more stamina (or perhaps fewer distractions) than we do. From the dimness of the crypt we then went outside for the Ceremony of Light, beginning with the lighting of the Paschal candle from the Paschal fire. Proceeding into the initially darkened nave of the cathedral, we heard the intonation of the Exsultet – the rejoicing for the resurrection – as our candles were lit. We rang handbells and David Bremner played an organ fanfare to start the first Eucharist of Easter and order of Confirmation: a journey from creation to resurrection, as the Archbishop phrased it that evening. The wooden cross of Good Friday had now been replaced by Ruth Kinsella's striking Easter floral cross at the entrance to the choir, as the photographs illustrate.



Easter floral cross

The congregations as well as the services themselves tended to differ in character. On Thursday, after a busy day's work, numbers were comparatively small. The Saturday vigil seemed to attract a surprisingly young crowd, whereas the Easter morning Eucharist drew many of our regular worshippers, and the following Evensong had a distinctly diverse attendance.

The fine singing from the choir aptly reflected the themes of the services. To pick just the three Eucharist settings, the starkness on Maundy Thursday of William Walton's *Missa Brevis* seemed at times to reflect perfectly the feeling of desolation. In contrast, the settings on Easter Eve and Easter Day, and particularly the adversities through which these compositions arose, both provided in a sense parallels for Jesus' resurrection triumph over suffering and death. The powerful *Missa Brevis* by Zoltán Kodály, performed on Easter Eve, was first sung in a cloakroom of the Budapest Opera House during the siege of the city in February 1945, when it was accompanied by a harmonium and the sound of distant gunfire. On Easter Day itself we heard the magnificent *Messe Solennelle*, with its great climaxes of sound, written by Jean Langlais, who was blind for almost all of his life.

We are grateful for all those who worked so hard for this sequence of five services: clergy, choir, administrators, and cathedral workers and helpers. Two people specially deserve thanks for leading our 'spiritual experience': the locum director of the choir, Judith Gannon, and, presiding over all, our dean, Dermot Dunne.

Friends' Tour to Norway – 2012



Crusing the fjords

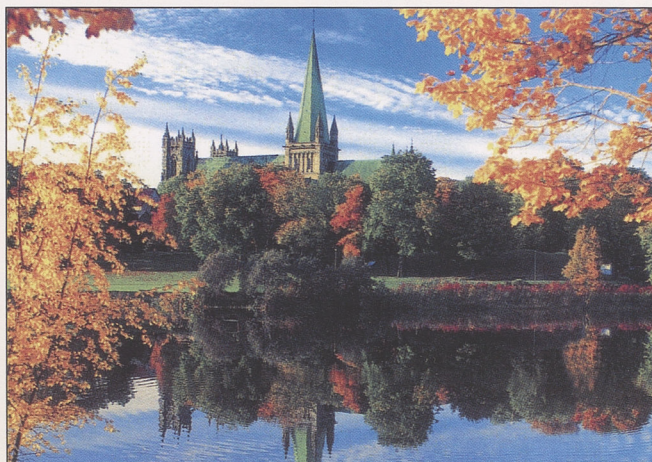
The next European Tour is being organised for either the end of May (23-30) or June (6-12) in 2012.

The central focus of the tour will be Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim. Its history begins with Olva, a Viking chieftain who went on to become King Olav and finally Saint Olav. The original basilica, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and known as Christchurch, was completed by about 1090. Trondheim was Norway's first capital and the cathedral became a prominent place of pilgrimage in the medieval period and still attracts many pilgrims today.

The planning of the tour is still very much a work in progress. It will hopefully include journeying by train through beautiful fjords, including the jewel in the crown – Geirangerfjord, today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Colourful warehouses near the mouth of the Nidelva river, Trondheim



Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim

After three nights in Trondheim, the plan is to come down to Oslo. Norway's capital has a population a little smaller than Dublin. Staying in a central location, it is possible to take in much of its history and experience its vibrant lifestyle.

A meeting in the Cathedral crypt will be arranged for the autumn and a brochure and booking details should be included in the next edition of the Friends' News.

It is not possible to give a final figure for the cost of the tour at this stage but we hope to be able to keep it around €1,500. The last tour, to Turkey in 2010, cost €1,450 (excluding taxes and supplements).



Elaborate stonework at Nidaros Cathedral

Rwanda May 2011

LESLEY RUE

On the 21st May I head to Rwanda for two weeks with my husband Ken (who has been going to Rwanda since 2004) and my sister Joan. We will be staying and working in the Diocese of Shyogwe.

In 2007 Ken, who then was a Lay Reader, was commissioned as a Canon of Shyogwe Cathedral and was made the bishop's commissary in Ireland.

Rwanda is sandwiched between the countries of DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi. It lies at the heart of the Mid-Africa region.

Shyogwe Diocese is located in South Central Rwanda. The Diocese originated with the building of a school in 1946. The Cathedral, which was completed in 1992, is dedicated to St Peter, and the bishop is Rt Rev Jéréd Kalimba, who has visited Ireland and Christ Church on a number of occasions.

Sadly, the genocide that occurred in 1994 continues to haunt it and the population suffers greatly from its results. 800,000 people were massacred in 100 days. There are many widows who lost their husbands and many children who lost their parents in the genocide. In addition, many women were raped during the concurrent civil war and contracted HIV/AIDS. Reconciliation continues to be a national priority and one in which the church is playing an active role in seeking to achieve.

Rwanda is often referred to as the 'land of a thousand hills', it has a lush climate, fertile soils and is the most densely populated country in Africa. It is landlocked, poor in natural resources, with an economy dominated by subsistence agriculture. There are 11 million people living in Rwanda, with some 900,000 of those living in Kigali, the capital city. Kinyarwanda is the most common language, with French being the main European language. In 2009 English was introduced as the language of education.

The Diocese is mainly rural, and the population is very poor. Over the past five years a number of projects have been completed with the help of Whitechurch Parish, the main ones being the upgrading of a dispensary to a health centre which now includes a maternity unit and the provision of seed capital for the establishment of a vocational youth training centre. Whitechurch Mothers' Union branch has assisted in a campaign by their counterparts to increase literacy levels. Parishioners of St Matthias Killiney Ballybrack Parish are currently helping to provide a second new health centre and the parish has twinned with St Matthias in Gahogo Parish, Shyogwe. Dublin YMCA raised money for the Diocese and, with the help of Irish Aid, 20,000 families now have access to clean water. CMS Ireland and the Bishops' Appeal have also assisted agricultural and other projects in the Diocese.

At the moment I am fund raising to raise money to buy an ambulance for the Diocese of Shyogwe. There are as many Anglicans in Shyogwe as in the Republic of Ireland. Imagine 100,000 people and NO AMBULANCE. The cost of a basic ambulance is approx €14,000. A quiz was held in the Cathedral crypt on Friday 6 May to help raise money for this project, and I am delighted to say €1,025 has been raised so far. I would like to thank all the people who helped on the night and who kindly gave me donations toward this project. If you would like to help this project, please send your donations to myself c/o Christ Church Cathedral. Also Drumcondra Parish held a Coffee morning and Bring & Buy Sale on Thursday 19 May in which they raised €1,000 toward the ambulance for Shyogwe Diocese. Thank you to the Revd Roy Byrne for organising this event.

I hope to keep all informed on what we are doing during our time in Rwanda via a blog, which you may visit at <http://www.RueRwandaz011.blogspot.com>

Subscription Renewal Reminder

Have you omitted to renew your Friends' Subscription or is it due for renewal?

A review of our membership list has show that many friends' subscriptions are overdue and some Friends subscriptions are below the minimum requested amount of €20 per annum.

Christ Church Cathedral depends greatly on the support of the Friends, so please make sure your subscription is up to date so that the Friends can continue our support of the Cathedral. Many thanks for your continued help!

Flowers

We are very grateful to those people who generously gave donations towards flowers and arranged them over the past few months:

Mrs E. Anderson, Desmond Campbell (in memory of his parents), Marion Coombs, Joe Cosgrave, Muriel Ebbs, Flo Fennell, Helen Finn (in memory of her brother Jim and his son Marc), Caroline Gray, Noel Healy, Johanna Hyland, Leila Kermode, Joan Lambert, Revd Canon & Mrs Billy Marshall, Doreen Orr, Olive Smith, Honor Stuart (in memory of her parents) and Graham & Carol Wilkinson.

Getting to know your Chapter

CANON TED ARDIS



Canon Ted Ardis

• A brief history of your career in the C of I

I was ordained deacon in Christ Church Cathedral in 1978, and priested there 1979 – both by Archbishop McAadoo. I was curate in Drumcondra and North Strand (rector Kevin Dalton, then Stanley Baird) and then in St Bartholomew's and Christ Church Leeson Park (vicar John Neill). I was rector of Ardamine

group of parishes, diocese of Ferns, for five years, then dean of Killala (diocese of Tuam) for fourteen years, in what became the Killala-Kilmoremoy group of parishes (Bishop: John Neill, then Richard Henderson). I became rector of Donnybrook and Irishtown in 2003. I became a canon of Christ Church in 2009.

• What does it mean to you on becoming a Canon of the Cathedral

The cathedral is the place of two of the most important moments of my life, my ordinations. Three, really, because I proposed to Hilary immediately after my deaconing in front of the heart of St Laurence O'Toole. (Very romantic, isn't it?) The cathedral is my replacement mum. I love the music and the tradition of worship: being a canon is having a seat with a view, really. It is very hard work.

• Most inspirational person you've known

George Simms. I was a pimply teenager when he came to Armagh (where I grew up). He became my first spiritual director after I was ordained.

• What aspect of the Christian Faith means most to you

The resurrection of Christ. He is a living Lord.

• Who would you most like to meet in heaven

St Francis of Assisi. I go to Assisi and he and St Clare are still living dynamic presences after all these centuries. Hilary and I are members of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis. Garth is our local head honcho: ask him about it some time.

• Married/children/grandchildren

Hilary is my wife. We met as students in Durham. John and Paul are our children. Paul is in Dublin. John is ordained and was once a curate in Christ Church group; he is now chaplain in UCC. He is married to Jane and they have two children: Tom born 22nd June 2007 and Joseph born 3rd October 2008. Their eldest, Catherine, died at five weeks old 31st October 2005. May we rise together in the glory of Christ.

• Leisure interests/hobbies

Singing (tenor in Ceiliuradh choir in Sandymount – I am not good on the high notes). Listening to music: I am in pig's

heaven sitting behind the choir in the cathedral. Sometimes I also like taking my naughty dogs for walks.

Canon Robert Deane

A brief history of your career in the C of I

Ordained to the Diaconate in June 1985 in Christ Church Cathedral to serve in the parish of Raheny and Coolock. Ordained to the Priesthood in June 1986. Instituted to the Clonsast (Edenderry) Group of Parishes (Meath and Kildare) in October 1988. Instituted to Swords and Donabate Group of Parishes October 2000

What does it mean to you on becoming a Canon of the Cathedral

It is a great honour and privilege to have been made a Canon of the Metropolitan and Diocesan Cathedral, and an opportunity to serve to whatever degree in the Cathedral in which I was ordained – a bit of a "full circle", coming back to where I began!

Most inspirational person you've known?

From an ecclesiastical point of view, I think probably Archbishop Neill for his clear thinking, capacity for work, organisational skills and spirituality.

What aspect of the Christian Faith means most to you?

Joining with others around "The Table of the Lord", and sharing in His hospitality.

Who would you most like to meet in heaven?

Apart from God, just to be there with everyone else would suffice!

Married/children/grandchildren

Married to Anne, in 1987; One child – Sarah – born 1988

Leisure interests/hobbies

Enjoy the gym, gardening, outings with Anne and Sarah, dining with friends

The Cathedral Board 2011-2014

At the Easter Vestry held on Tuesday 26 April the following lay members were elected to the Board of the Cathedral:

Dr Kenneth Milne, Mr Daithi O'Maolchoille, Mr David Bockett, Mr Des Kinsella, Mr Desmond Campbell, Mr Terence Read, Mr Michael Denton, Mr David Wynne and Mrs Jean Finch.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise



Ms Caroline Nolan – Development
Officer for Cumann Gaelach na
hEaglaise

A cháirde,

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise/the Irish Guild of the Church will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation in 2014. Our aim leading up to this great occasion is to provide increased opportunities for people in the Church, who are interested in Irish, to use it.

We know that our success will depend on the support and enthusiasm

of the clergy, church organisations, school-children and parishioners on the ground. We see our role as acting as a catalyst, connecting people, raising awareness of the opportunities and resources available and providing hands-on support and advice, when possible, to coordinate activities in all twelve dioceses.

As many of you will be aware, the Church of Ireland has a special relationship with the language due to the noble and proud role played by many of its members in preserving the Irish language and igniting its revival in the early 20th century. These actions have forged unique links that are still active today.

It is our desire to be responsive to ideas that people might have in relation to:

Promoting greater use of Irish in church services.

Raising awareness of the opportunities to use Irish in the Church of Ireland community in each diocese.

Raising awareness in the schools.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise appointed Caroline Nolan as our new Irish Language Development Officer in February of this year to help coordinate the work. We have been heartened by the level of support for this role and the 'fáilte mór' that Caroline has received as she goes about meeting

groups and clergy in each diocese, not least from Dean Dunne here in Christchurch Cathedral. We were delighted to be able to assist and support St George's parish in Belfast, in March of this year, when they organised the celebration of the Eucharist in Irish. Caroline has also hotfooted it up to Armagh to meet with Archbishop Harper, and was down to Kilkenny to meet with Bishop Burrows, and over to An Daingean in May to speak to the congregation in St. James during the Féile Pan-Cheilteach.

Our immediate next steps are to produce a bilingual prayer sheet, with prayers and responses such as Ár nAthair atá ar neamh (the Lord's Prayer), Glóir don Athair (Glory be to the Father), A Thiarna, déan trócaire (Lord have mercy), etc.. It will be available at the General Synod and we will be distributing it to any church that seeks copies of it thereafter. We are producing this prayer sheet in response to the feedback we have to date, which suggests that people would like some Irish during a service but having a full service through Irish might be a bit daunting, in the first instance.

Our language is full of colour, creativity, passion and intricacy. It is a unique asset that is ours to embrace. Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise was founded in 1914 to promote the use of Irish in the Church of Ireland. Its specific aims were to (1) promote all that tends to preserve within the Church of Ireland the spirit of the ancient Celtic Church and to provide a bond of union for all members of the Church of Ireland inspired with Irish ideals, (2) promote the use of the Irish language in the Church, (3) collect from Irish sources suitable hymns and other devotional literature, (4) encourage the use of Irish art and music in the Church.

As we look back we recognise the great work done by diligent and committed members of the Cumann down through the years. We wish to build on this and as the old proverb says, "Ní neart go cur le chéile" (there is no strength without unity).

For details in relation to Church services in Irish, publications of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise and, or, to get in contact with us, please do not hesitate to contact us on: galeaglais@gmail.com or <http://www.cumanngaelachnaheaglaise.blogspot.com> or telephone Caroline Nolan, 026 45741 or 085 1632 772

In the last Friends News we published a reminder to Friends in arrears to ask them to renew and update their membership. The committee are delighted with the response and are very grateful to those members who have renewed their membership and settled arrears. However there are still a number of Friends whose membership is in arrears or whose annual payment is less than the requested €20. Again the committee would like to appeal to members to check that their membership is up to date. You may ring the Friends office mobile 087 790 6062 or email friends@cccdub.ie. Many thanks to you all who continue to generously support the Cathedral through their membership of the Friends.

Sheltered Accommodation Available



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At present we have one large upstairs bedroom apartment (recently renovated) and two bedsitting apartments available. We provide a midday meal, central heating and hot water, insurance (residents insure their own personal effects and furniture), fire protection equipment, personal alarm call system, social events and a large comfortable television room.

If you are interested and would like to be considered for residency, please contact us and we will gladly give you a brief tour and will be happy to answer any questions you have.



Contacts at Christ Church Cathedral

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The Treasurer:	THE REVD CANON JOHN McCULLAGH 4125609 (H) rathdrum@glenalough.anglican.org
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Director of Operations:	MS SARAH DRUMM sarah.drumm@cccdub.ie
Director of Music:	POSITION VACANT. ENQUIRIES TO JUDITH GANNON 6778099
Visitor Services Manager:	MRS ANGELA MCGROGGAN, angela.mcgroggan@cccdub.ie
Organ Scholar:	VACANT
Cathedral Bells:	MR IAN BELL ringingmaster@cccdub.ie
Vergers' Department:	TEL: 677 8099, vergers@cccdub.ie MR PADDY TIERNEY (SENIOR VERGER) MR FREDDIE McKEOWN, (DEAN'S VERGER), MR DAIRE DALY
Archives/Friends:	DR. KENNETH MILNE, 492 2971 (H) kennethmilne@eircom.net
Flower Rota:	MRS RUTH KINSELLA, 280 1464(H)
Friends Office:	MRS LESLEY RUE, 087 7906062 (O) friends@cccdub.ie
Cathedral website:	www.cccdub.ie
Cathedral:	TEL: 677 8099; FAX: 679 8991



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Friends Annual General Meeting 2011

The annual general meeting of the Friends will be held on Sunday 19 June 2011 beginning at 2.15pm. It is your opportunity to learn about the work of the Friends during the year, to hear of plans for the future and to put forward your ideas and suggestions. We carry below the notice of the meeting and the agenda. Please find a copy of last year's minutes and the annual accounts for the year.

The annual general meeting of the Friends will be held on Sunday 19 June in the chapter room beginning at 2.15 p.m.

K. Milne, Hon. Secretary.

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Minutes of the annual general meeting held on 30th May 2010
3. Apologies for absence
4. Address by the chairman
5. Report by the Honorary Secretary
6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer
7. Adoption of the accounts for 2010
8. Executive Committee:
 - (a) Appointment of six nominees by the Dean
 - (b) Election of six members by the AGM
9. Any other business not requiring notice
10. Closing prayer

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Christ Church was held on Sunday 30 May 2010 in the chapter room of the cathedral.

Present:

The Dean (Chairman), David Bockett (Hon. Treasurer), Kenneth Milne (Hon. Secretary) and 39 other members.

Apologies for absence:

Margaret & Michael Denton, Aonghus Dwane, Valerie Hade, Des, Heidi & Stuart Kinsella, Sheila & Pat Meehan, Noreen Poyntz, Des Reid, Sylvia Tennant and Margaret Wynne.

1/10 Opening prayer

Bishop SG Poyntz opened the meeting with prayer.

2/10 Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2009 were confirmed and signed.

3/10 Address by the Chairman

The Dean thanked the members for attending. He also thanked the committee and officers for their work in the past year. He expressed his gratitude to those who had organised the salmon and strawberry lunch that preceded the meeting and asked that Mr John Pigott, the caterer, be thanked for an excellent meal and for providing it at the same cost as for the past two years.

Referring to the current financial difficulties facing the cathedral, he said that this was largely attributable to a serious fall in the number of visitors, partly caused by the world-wide recession, and exacerbated in recent months by the disruption to tourism that resulted from the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland. He spoke of the cost-cutting that had been necessary, and which impacted particularly on the cathedral music and fabric. He was, however, hopeful for the future, and welcomed the fact that the chapter was now fulfilling its appropriate role in the governance of the cathedral.

Developments such as the transfer of the gift shop to the crypt (largely funded by the Henry Roe Trust) were positive. The holding of the General Synod at Christ Church earlier in the month had been deemed a great success, and he congratulated the editor of Friends' News on a splendid edition that had been published to coincide with the synod, each member of which having been presented with a welcome pack by the Friends, including a copy of the News.

In order to streamline the management of the cathedral and make it more cost effective a restructuring and streamlining of management had taken place over the past six months, and there would be an emphasis on fund-raising. Ms Bernie Murphy had been appointed managing-director, and Ms Sarah Drumm as director of operations. He announced that

he had appointed the Revd Garth Bunting to be Residential Priest Vicar, with special responsibility for spiritual outreach in both the cathedral and the united dioceses.

4/10 Report of the Hon. Secretary

The Hon Secretary reported that in the course of the year the oak panels listing priors and deans of Christ Church, which had been presented by the Friends in memory of Dean Desmond Harman, had been dedicated, and were considered to be an enhancement of the cathedral.

Two pilgrimages had taken place: a visit to Liverpool in October, led by David Wynne, and to Turkey in May, led by Terence Read and John Bartlett. Registration was now under way for the 2010 pilgrimage to Shrewsbury.

In order to increase the opportunities for Friends to meet socially, it was intended to revive the one-day visits, focussing on destinations that Friends might not find accessible other than as members of a group.

The provision of coffee and tea after the Sunday Eucharist continued to be a major contribution by the Friends to the cathedral's ministry. Paddy Walsh has ceased to be the co-ordinator of this event, on moving to County Wexford, and his work in this regard was much appreciated, as was the time and effort that he had given to organising 'Music and Musings'.

The cathedral 'History', published by Four Courts Press in hardback in 2000, was now out of print, and the Friends had made possible the publication of a paperback edition in the coming autumn by guaranteeing a minimum number of purchases.

The Hon. Secretary then proposed two amendments to article 6.1 (3) of the Friends' constitution, as follows, which were passed *nem.con*:

'with effect from the elections held at the stated Annual General Meeting of 2011 the words 'have been subscribing members of the Friends for at least three years' be replaced by the words 'be members of the Friends' '

Also 'that with immediate effect the words 'All nominations, whether submitted before or put forward at the meeting, shall be accompanied by the written consent of the candidates' be omitted'.

5/10 Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009. He thanked Lesley Rue and Brian Bradshaw for their very considerable assistance during the year, and expressed his appreciation of the work of the auditor.

He informed the meeting that it had been decided to take up 50% of the 9,000 Bank of Ireland shares to which the Friends were entitled under the current rights issue, and to sell the remaining 50%.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting and appreciation of the Hon. Treasurer's care of the Friends' finances was expressed.

6/10 Executive Committee

The executive committee for the ensuing year was appointed as follows:

Dean's nominees: David Bockett, Harold Hislop, Ruth Kinsella, Don Macaulay, Kenneth Milne and David Irwin.

Elected members: Dorothy Pennefather, Lesley Rue, Valerie Houlden, David Wynne, Brian Bradshaw and Kenneth Fennelly

7/10 Other business

Anne Griffin referred to the importance of showing solidarity with the members of the Roman Catholic Church who were deeply hurt by recent revelations of child abuse. The Chairman assured the meeting that the Roman Catholic community had expressed its appreciation of the support it was receiving from the Church of Ireland, and from the Archbishop in particular.

Replying to an enquiry as to the size of membership, Kenneth Fennelly stated that the current number of Friends was 630. He also undertook to have investigated any implications for the Friends of recent charity legislation.

In response to a comment by Mrs Margaret Mack regretting that there had been no opportunity for Friends to express corporately to Canon Gardner their appreciation of his work for the cathedral and the Friends, the Chairman explained that while an event had been arranged and advertised, extremely bad weather had caused it to be cancelled. He hoped that another opportunity might be arranged.

8/10 Closing prayer

In closing the meeting with the Grace, the Chairman announced that the centenary of Bishop George Otto Simms's birth would be remembered at the Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday 4 July, when the preacher would be Bishop Poyntz.

THE NORMAN COMMISKEY MEMORIAL FUND.

This fund was formed in 1984 with subscriptions from the Parishes of the Cathedral Group, in memory of their late Pastor, CANON NORMAN COMMISKEY, to be administered by the **Friends** for the benefit of the Cathedral.

The fund has been added to from time to time and formed a vehicle for investment, to provide income and capital growth, which the **Friends** have used for special projects in the Cathedral.

In the past year Bank of Ireland brought out a Rights Issue and we took up 50% of our allocation at a cost of €0.55 per share, selling the other 50% for €944.26. Since then the price in the market of BOI shares has fallen to €0.38. The Government partly nationalised BOI and fully nationalised AIB but the shares in both continue to trade. The future of Ordinary Shares in the banks remains uncertain. Dividends will not resume in the foreseeable future.

It will be remembered that Professional advice was taken in 2008, when it was decided to retain our shares and be prepared to hold them for the long term in the hope of some recovery.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUND IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009.

INCOME.		€
Balance in Deposit Account from 2009		€ 9,517.17
Dividends in 2010		€ NIL
Interest in 2010		€ 0.96
Rights sold in Bank of Ireland		€ 944.26
Closing Balance in Deposit Account carried forward to 2011.		€ 10,462.39

VALUE OF FUND:	At 31/12/2009: €18,552.03	At 31/12/2010:	€ 15,329.63
11,098 Bank of Ireland Units of Stock (including 4756 Rights Issue)		@ €0.38	€ 4,717.24
500 A.I.B Ordinary Shares		@ €0.30	€ 150.00
Balance in Deposit Account.			€ 10,462.39
		Total	€ 15,329.63

HISTORICAL RECORD.

Balance at 31 December annually.

1984	€ 1,523.69	1985	€ 2,391.49
1986	€ 2,516.62	1987	€ 3,297.51
1988	€ 8,858.96	1989	€ 12,221.23
1990	€ 10,582.00	1991	€ 10,574.38
1992	€ 18,745.14	1993	€ 28,624.54
1994	€ 29,201.13	1995	€ 39,100.54
1996	€ 45,259.42	1997	€ 77,094.31
1998	€ 103,946.06	1999	€ 90,549.28
2000	€ 103,124.83	2001	€ 129,088.10
2002	€ 101,568.17	2003	€ 76,375.61
2004	€ 88,797.99	2005	€ 99,781.39
2006	€ 131,649.61	2007	€ 70,462.44
2008	€ 15,885.74	2009	€ 18,552.03
2010	€ 15,329.63		

FUND PORTFOLIO. At 31st December 2010.

11,098	Bank of Ireland Units of Stock of €0.64 cents each
500	Allied Irish Bank plc Ordinary Shares.
€10,462.39	A.I.B. Deposit Account No. 1521 4112.

D.A.B. 14th March 2011.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT						I N C O M E		E X P E N S E S	
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010									
						2009	2010	2009	2010
						€	€	€	€
BALANCE IN CURRENT AND DEPOSIT A/C'S BROUGHT FORWARD						28,597.62	20,478.04	-	-
SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM FRIENDS.....						14,849.04	16,036.53	-	-
DONATIONS						2,511.96	634.74	1,700.00	-
SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS OR COST OF FLOWERS.....						1,519.47	1,765.00	1,050.20	1,276.40
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR OR COST OF RESTORATION OF CHAIRS.....						875.00	250.00	-	-
INCOME FROM EXCURSIONS: COST OF EXCURSIONS.....						15,001.77	49,371.31	16,015.58	42,488.40
INCOME FROM FUNCTIONS: COST OF FUNCTIONS.....						4,701.00	1,811.00	6,794.61	2,285.50
SALES OF FRIENDS BADGES.....						-	28.00	-	-
BANK: INTEREST.....						7.43	7.61	-	-
SECRETARIAL FEES.....								4,000.00	4,200.00
GIFTS TO THE CATHEDRAL.....								6,630.13	6,364.72
"FRIENDS' NEWS" - ADVERTISING REVENUE; PRODUCTION COST AND POSTAGE.....						260.00	520.00	8,370.02	8,255.39
PRINTING AND STATIONERY.....								2,687.80	1,104.89
POSTAGE, PHONE AND FAX.....								467.20	103.60
BANK CHARGES.....								129.71	179.62
EXTRAORDINARY ITEM: COST OF BANK OF IRELAND RIGHTS ISSUE									2,615.80
									-
									-
									-
									-
BALANCE IN DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO 15214 468 carried forward.....								106.34	106.34
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT NO 15214 039 carried forward.....								20,371.70	21,921.57
TOTAL						68,323.29	90,902.23	68,323.29	90,902.23
AUDITORS REPORT									
I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Accounts in accordance with approved Auditing Standards.									
I have obtained all the information and explanations which I considered necessary and the Accounts are in agreement with the Friends accounting records.									
MERVYN CARSON FCCA AITI									
"Kanta", 5 Silchester Crescent, Glenageary, County Dublin.								David Bockett	
								Honorary Treasurer	
30th March 2011								10th March 2011	



Ruth Kinsella and Lesley Rue (Friends' Committee) provided tea after the launch of 'Creation', a Bible Study resource for Lent.



The Revd Roy Byrne's Coffee Morning And Bring & Buy Sale which he held in aid of Rwanda.



L-R Jean Campbell, Barbara Comerford, the Revd Patrick Comerford and Desmond Campbell at the Table Quiz held in the crypt of Christ Church



SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
NATHANIEL SNEYD ESQ^r
CUSTOS ROTULORUM OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN
AND REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT OF THE SAME COUNTY
DURING A PERIOD OF 56 YEARS.
DIED 31 OF JULY 1853
AGED 66 YEARS